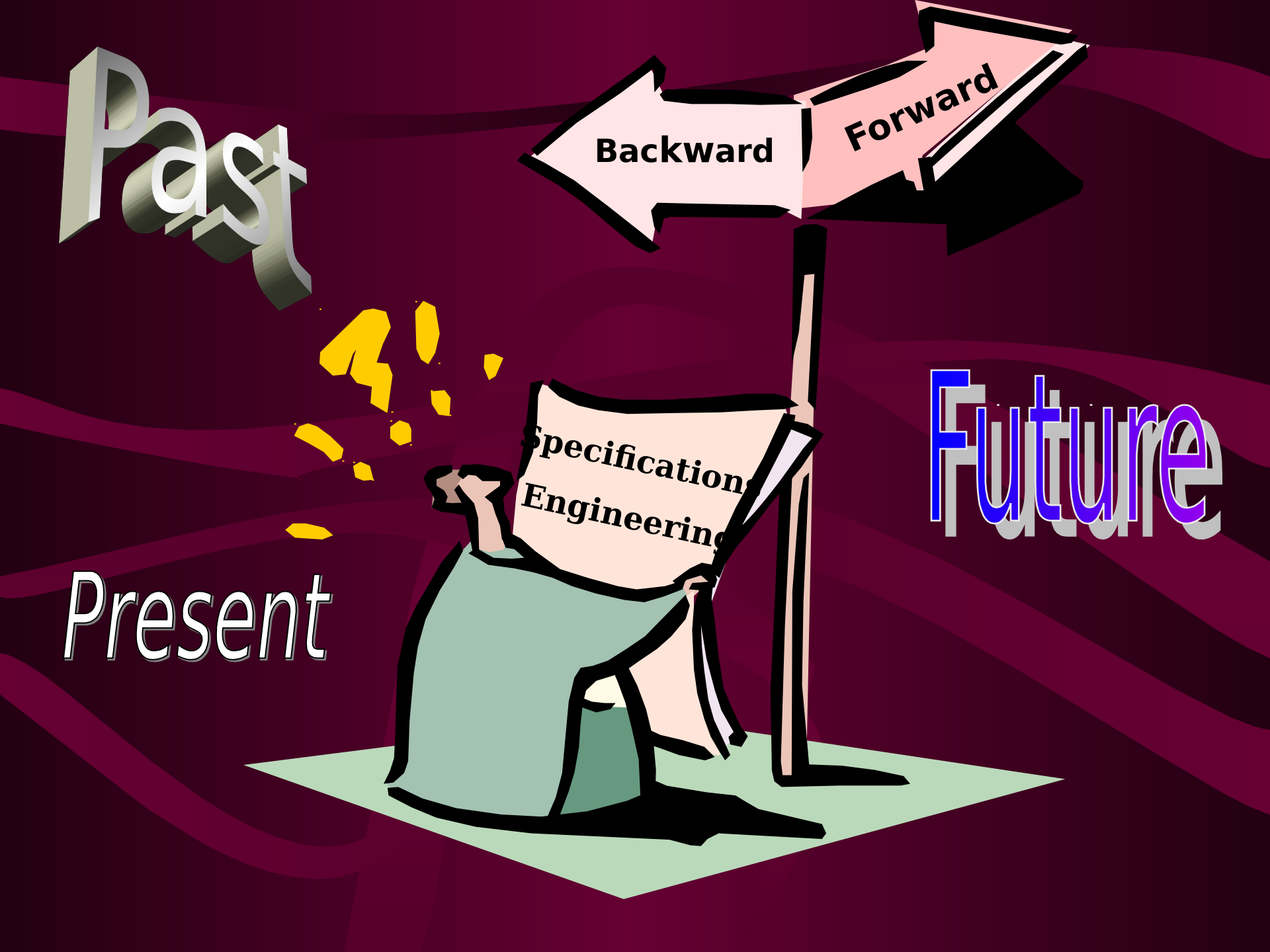
What is a Specifications Engineer?

Specifications Engineering

- Background
  - Past / Present / Future
  - CSI Specifications Competition
  - Personal Experience
  - Need for Registration
- Specifications Engineering Defined
- Conclusion

Quality construction can only occur if there is a quality project manual.

The Specifications Engineer is responsible for assuring that quality project manuals are produced!


Past
Backward
Forward
Future
Present
Specification
Engineering

In the Beginning (35 years ago)

- Slide Rules and Calculators (No computers)
- Draftsmen preparing ink drawings
- Typists using electric typewriters

- Specifications Writers

Specifications Writers

- Took the drawings and prepared the “specs”
- Used copy machines, scissors, and tape
- Used old jobs, catalogs, and other materials to prepare the “specs”
- Large design organizations had a whole group of Specifications Writers

1996 Survey of Corps of Engrs.

- 70% - have a Specifications Group
  - Many work similar to 35 years ago
- 25% - have “Design Teams”
  - Everybody does their own thing - no system
- 5% - have “official staplers”
  - out of Control

Private A/E Firms

- A few do it the old way and have a “specifier”
- Some have knowledgeable designers who oversee the preparation of the Specs
- Most consider preparation of specifications typing

Future

Official Staplers become the norm for putting together Project Manuals

or

Specifications Engineering becomes a reality as a professional specialty in A/E Design

CSI Specifications Competition

- Project Manual Categories
  - A – Project Manuals
  - B – Short Form Specifications
  - C – Preliminary Project Descriptions
  - D – Outline Specifications
  - X – Design-Build RFP
  - Y – Design-Build Response to RFP
- Product Binder Category

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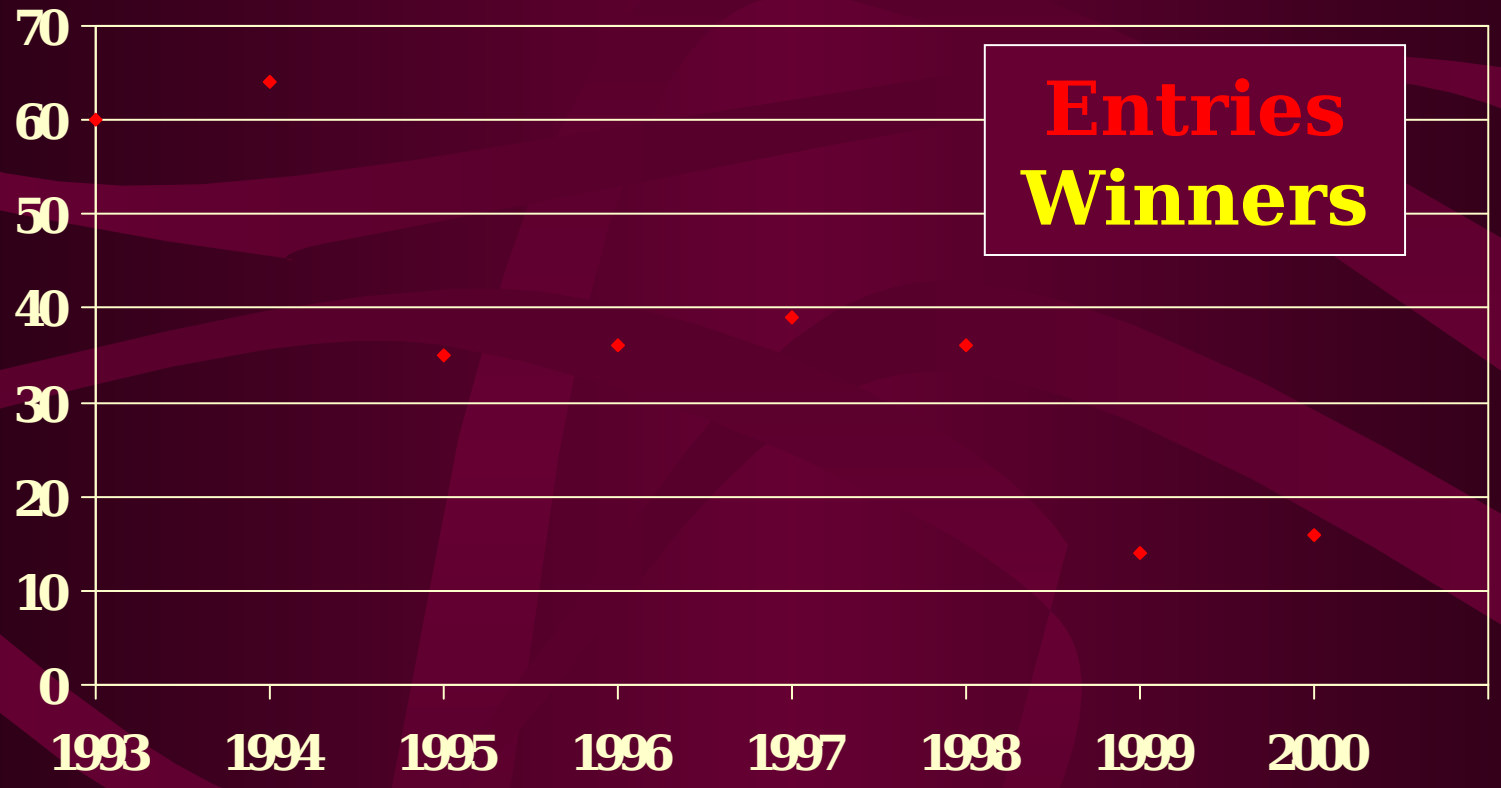
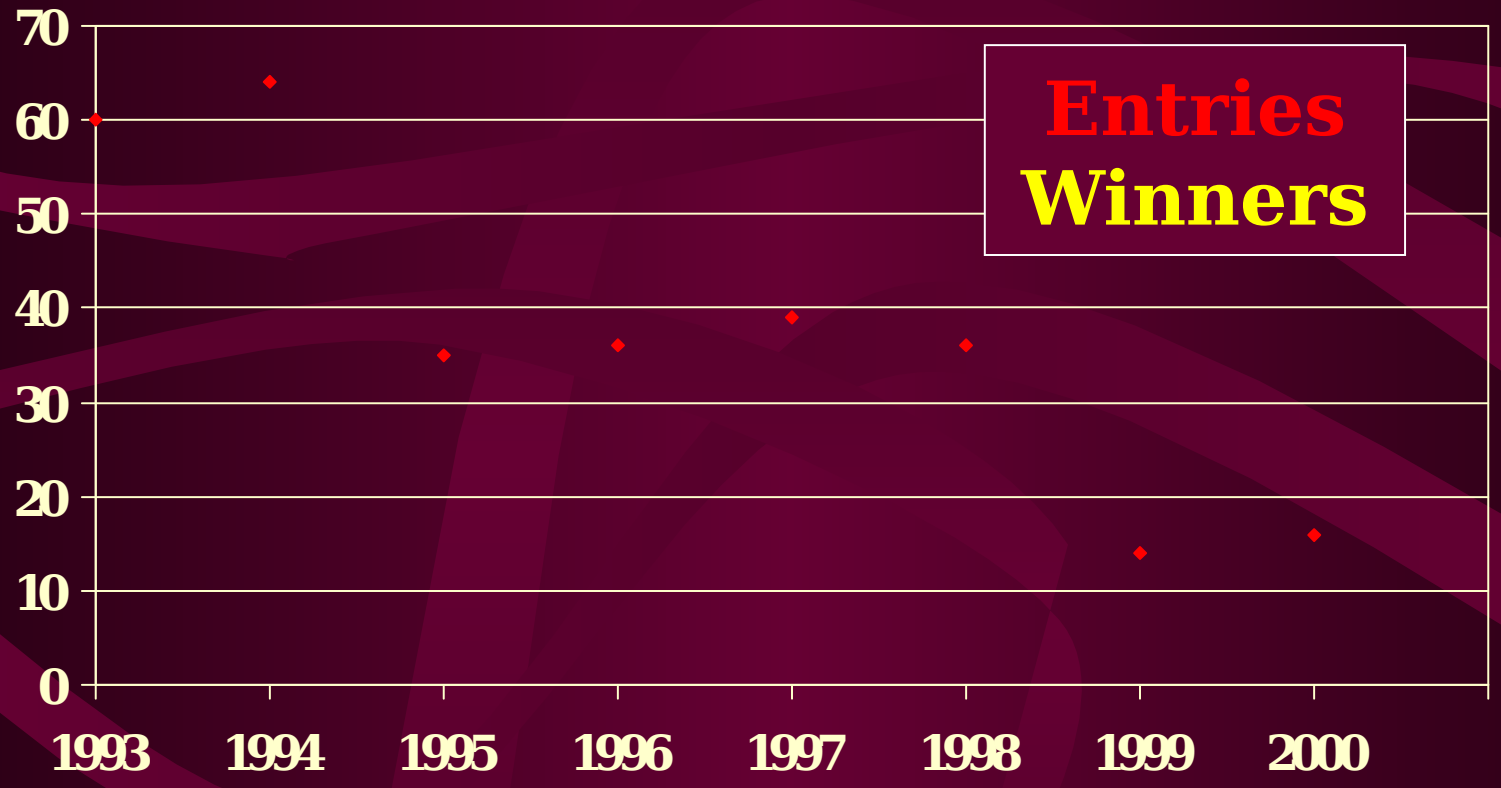
Specifications Competition Project Manuals



Specifications Competition Project Manuals



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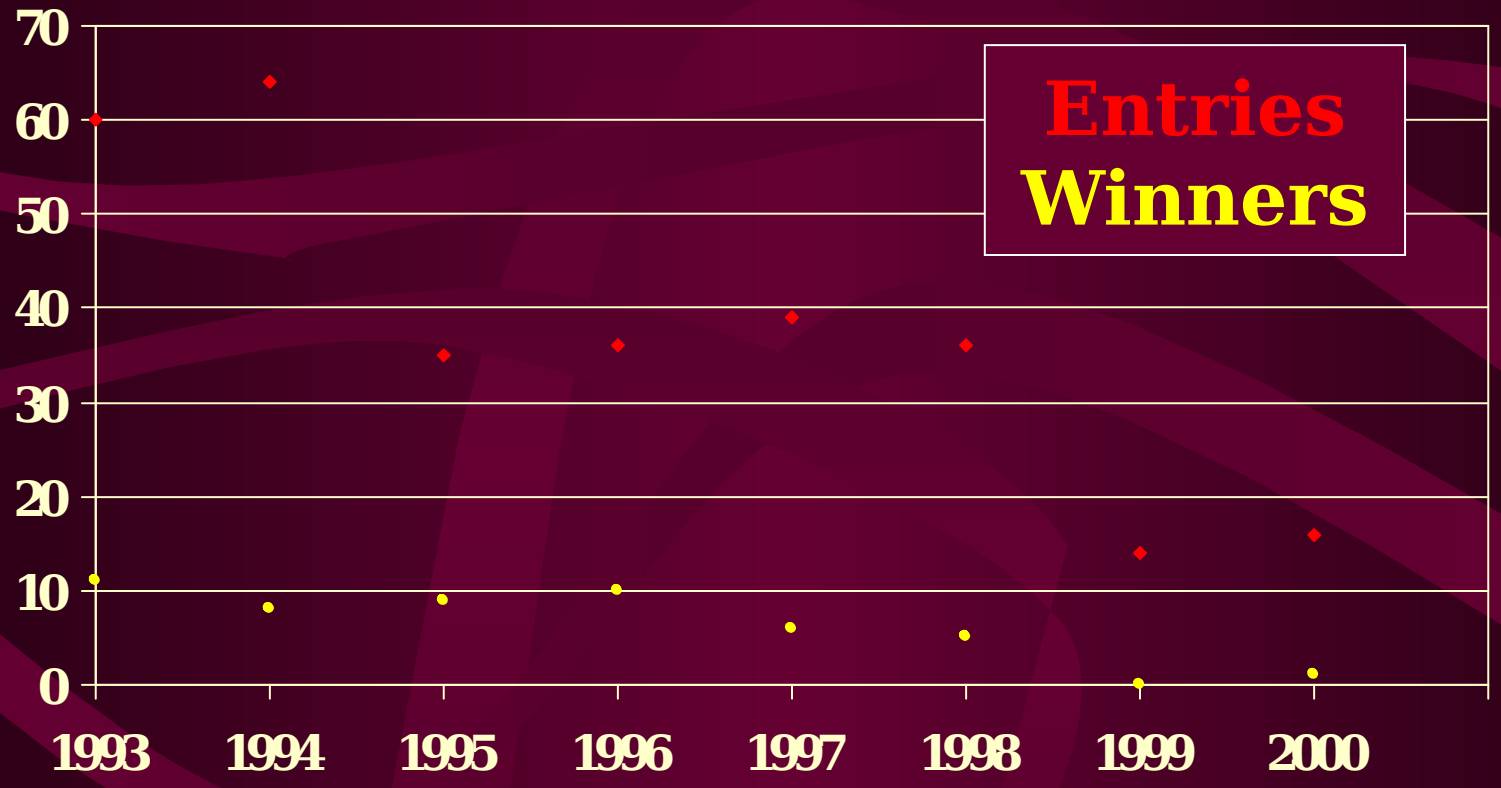
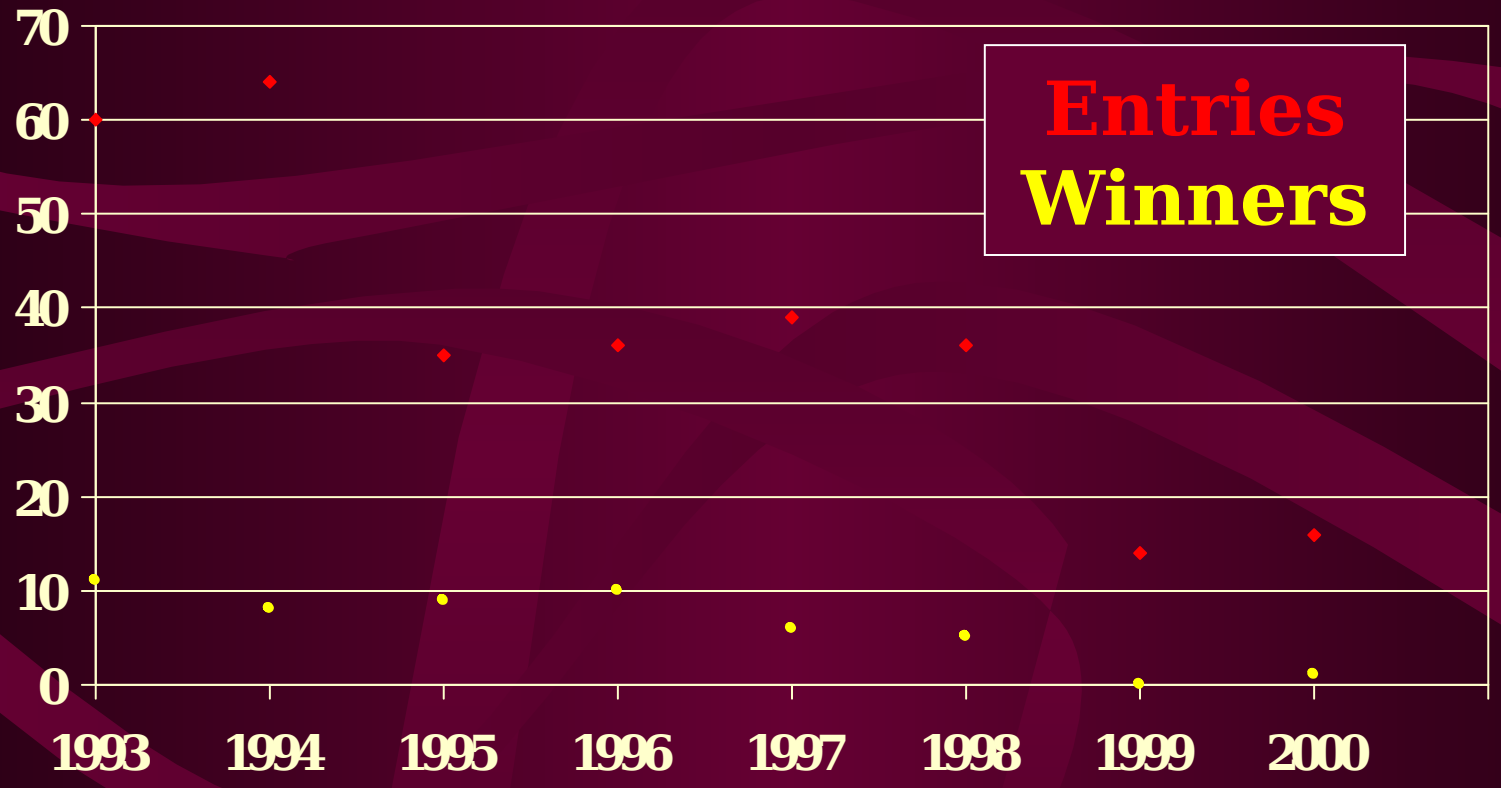


Specifications Competition Project Manuals



Specifications Competition Project Manuals

Conclusion - -

Fewer project manuals being submitted

for award and quality of those

submitted is lower than in prior years.

Personal Observations

- Army & Navy lacking in competent Specifications Engineers
- Most A/E firms do not have a competent Specifications Engineer
- Designers need support of a Specifications Engineer

- Prior to submission of the base building bids the Contractor shall offer for selection by the contracting officer the names, qualifications, and pre-award submittal of at least two proposed manufacturers. The Contracting Officer will indicate which, if any, of the manufacturers are acceptable for the Contractor to include in his or her base building bid. The pre-award submittal shall include:

  Drawings of the equipment

  Schematic drawing of installation

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Issue addenda?

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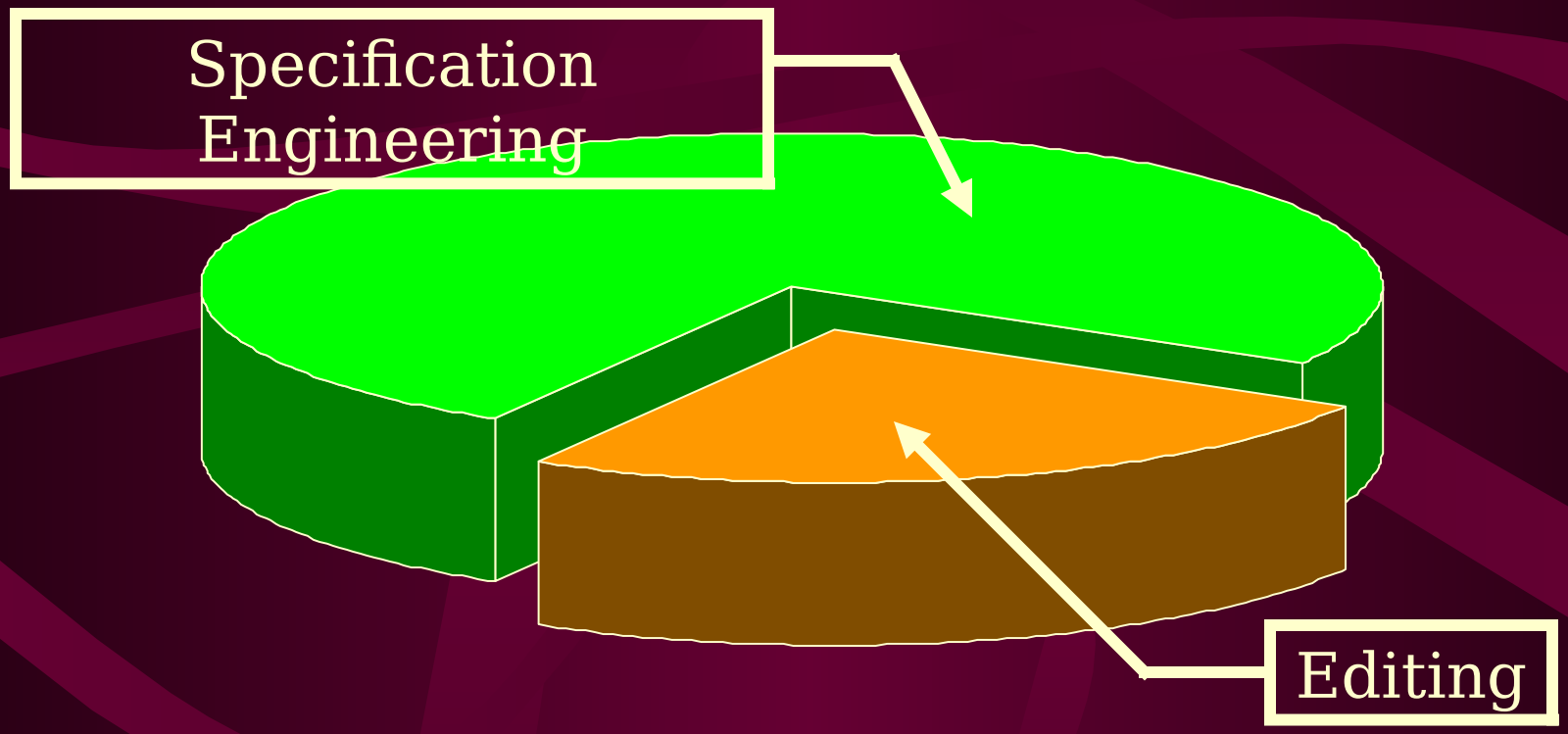
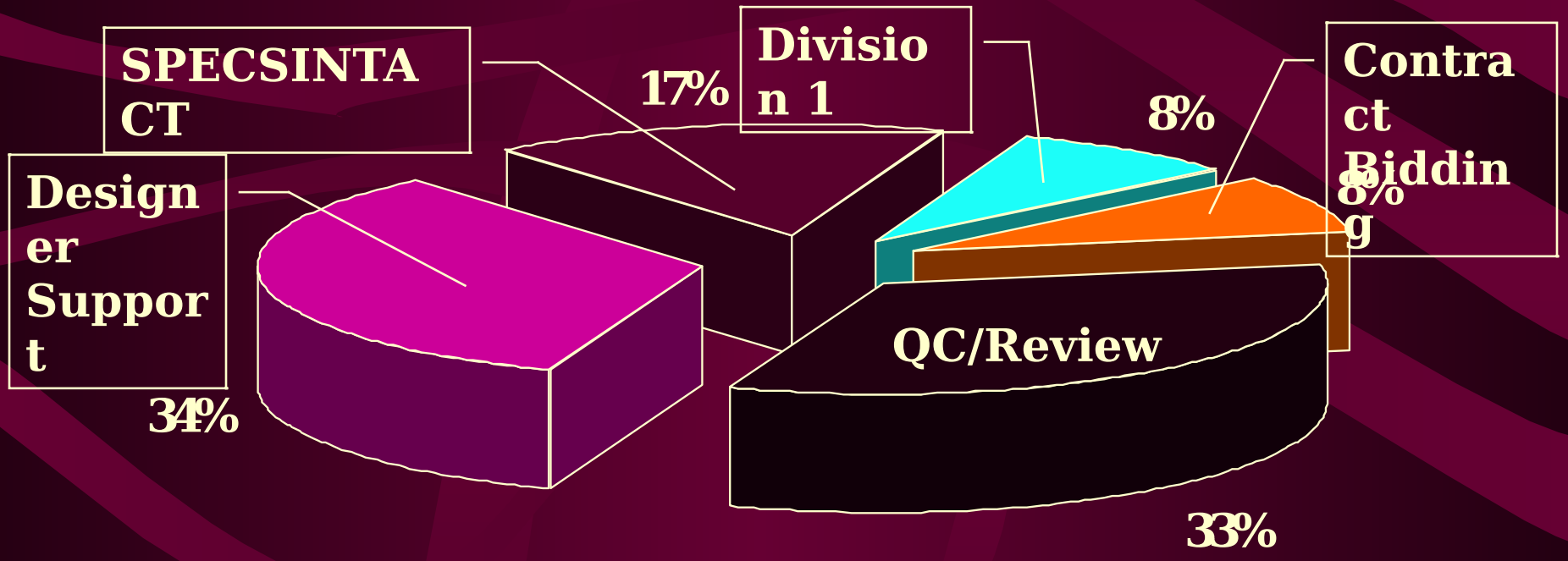
Hours of Effort / Section



Specifications Engineer Effort



Spec Engineer - Registration

Independent Spec Writers – Prepare sections of specifications for insertion into the Project Manual by A/E firm. Select products and set performance criteria.

Clear violation of Registration laws for Architects and Engineers.

Spec Engineer - Registration

Spec Writers employed by A/E firm.

I don't get no respect!!

Spec Engineer - Registration

- The Construction Specifications Institute
  - Establishes Specification Practice
  - MasterFormat, SectionFormat, PageFormat
- CSI Certified Construction Specifier
  - Not required to be registered professional
- Need Registered Professional CCS recognition within CSI

Spec Engr. Responsibilities

- Overall control of Project Manual Preparation
- Coordination of “00” Documents with Specs
- Division 1 Sections
- MasterFormat / SectionFormat / Language
- SPECSINTACT Software
- Bid Schedule & Procurement Coordination
- Quality Assurance

Designer Responsibilities

With Support from Specifications Engineer

- Technical Content of Spec Sections
- Selects Technical Sections to be used in Project
- Marks-up guide specification section
  - Spec Engineer may enter mark-up
  - Designer may enter mark-up on-screen